

To: **Mayor and City Council**  
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**  
From: **Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police**  
Date: **May 26, 2020**

## **Driving Diversion Program (DDP) Agreement Renewal**

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On July 1, 2009, the Minnesota Legislature created a pilot program called License Reinstatement Diversion Program (DDP) in which a few cities, West St. Paul included, were able to participate. The program was in response to the growing number of drivers falling into a financial abyss for one reason or another after receiving some sort of traffic violation, but continued to drive to attend work, school, get groceries, etc. These drivers often received subsequent violations and soon their fines accumulated to more than they could reasonably pay. Even if these revoked or suspended drivers wanted to obtain a valid driver's license again, they often could not pay their excessive fines before applying for their reinstated license, a requirement of the State

The DDP program is privately operated by Diversion Solutions, LLC and incorporates several components to assist revoked and suspended drivers in becoming lawful drivers once again, including a fine payment program whereby drivers would make installment payments on their traffic and court fines; an educational component to prevent future license and driving violations and assistance in obtaining proper vehicle insurance. There are certain violations such as a DWI conviction that would exclude a driver from being in the program.

As previously stated, the City has been involved in this program since 2009 with signed agreements with Diversion Solutions, LLC. The current agreement is set to expire at the end of June as we would like to extend this program as authorized by Minnesota Statutes.

The agreement is very similar to previous agreements except for the elimination of a statutory exhibit which is now permanent. In addition, instead of an expiration date, this agreement is in effect until Diversion Solutions, LLC, or the City requests a termination which can be made by either party with a 30 day notice. Since we have had an agreement in place since 2009, I do not see this as an issue.

The City Attorney has reviewed this agreement as presented and has no issues.

There should be no fiscal impact as the fees paid by the participants are split between the program sponsor, Diversion Solutions, LLC, to offset program costs, prosecution fees and the City.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Renew the agreement by authorizing the City Manager to sign the agreement by adopting the attached resolution.